## The Watchlist

No. 1 November 2020 Families of Iranian Terror Victims www.habilian.ir/en o

Monitoring Terrorist Threats in West Asia

MEK in Albania: Potential Implications and Security Concerns

**Terrorism Monitor** 

It Would be Wrong to Ignore the Mojahedin in Albania

Deutsche Welle

My Day With the MEK

The Balkanista

The MEK Claims Responsibility for Assassination of a Firefighter

**Habilian** 



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#### Introduction

Terrorism is not a new phenomenon and is as old as ancient history. However, the twentieth century can be considered the peak of this sinister phenomenon. Although terrorist attacks are mainly conducted for political and sometimes ideological purposes, the vast majority of victims around the world are innocent civilians and, in this sense, no distinction is made among terrorists. Regardless of whether it is the political and ideological groups that carry out terrorist attacks or the governments that conduct physical, economic and cyber terrorism to deal with opposition groups or rival countries, the very nature of terrorism is absolutely disgraceful.

Monitoring the political changes of the 1980s reveals that Iran, which is located in the center of the West Asia region, has always been one of the targets of terrorism. Starting from the first months of the victory of the Islamic Revolution in February 1979, political opponents of the new government in Iran initiated a series of assassinations. In these operations, not only political officials were targeted but also thousands of Iranians were murdered in blind bombings. In one operation, more than 70 political figures including the head of the judiciary and several members of the parliament were murdered. In another operation, the Iranian president and prime minister were assassinated. In several other operations, a number of prominent religious figures were assassinated in various cities in Iran. These operations were not limited to the 1980s and continued afterwards.

At the beginning of the 21st century, terrorist operations of various groups, including separatist groups increased in number. In addition, the emergence of ideological extremist groups in parts of Iran led to a series of violent operations such as suicide attacks on military and civilian targets. During the last four decades, more than 17,000 Iranian people have fallen victim to terrorist operations by various antigovernment groups in Iran.

These terrorist groups are all identified and almost all of them reside outside Iran. Their offices and headquarters are located in a number of foreign countries and overtly promote hatred and violence against the Iranian government.

The Center of Terrorism Studies affiliated with the families of terror victims in Iran considers terrorism and extremism as major threats to the peace and security of citizens all around the world. Unfortunately, a significant part of these terrorists who have targeted Iranian citizens during the last four decades are officially sheltered in some European countries. Our concern, as descendants of terror victims, is that the presence of these violent groups will affect the security of innocent citizens of Europe and West Asia region, just as it overshadowed the security of Iranian ones.

Therefore, we intended to provide the international community with information, reports and documents related to these terrorist groups in Iran and West Asia region ae well as their history through publishing a monthly in order to raise awareness, and caution the elite against the dangers of spread of extremism, terrorism, and violence and the terrorists' coexistence with citizens. Stay tuned for our next issues.

## The Watchlist

## MEK in Albania: Potential Implications and Security Concerns



In 2013, the Obama Administration convinced Albanian authorities to take in the MEK, a former Marxist terrorist group that had been in open combat with the Islamic Republic for years. In 2016, under cover of the migration crisis and with help from the UNHCR, several hundred more of these Iranian dissidents were brought into Albania from Iraq. What could possibly go wrong? In this exclusive new analysis of a little-discussed security subject, Albanian counter-terrorism expert Ebi Spahiu analyzes the potential for future sectarian divisions and domestic and international orientations towards Albania's newest population.

Source: Ebi Spahiu, Terrorism Monitor; Balkanalysis

n 2013, the Obama Administration struck a deal with the government of Albania to offer asylum to about 250 members of Mohajedeen-e-Khalq (MEK), an Iranian "dissident group" exiled from Iran to Iraq during the early years of [Ayatollah] Khomeini's government. The group was once labeled a terrorist organization by the international community due to its track record of orchestrating bombing campaigns in Iran - often targeting American offices, businesses and citizens - as well as other military operations in an attempt to oust the newly established Iranian Islamic government in the 1970s.

Since 2013, the Obama Administration and Albanian government have extended the agreement, consequently increasing the number of asylum seekers to somewhere in the range of 500-2,000 MEK members. During the summer of 2016, Tirana received the largest contingent of about 1,900 people- an operation managed by the UNHCR.

Although most local media portray the operation and Albania's willingness to offer assistance to the dissident group as a humanitarian mission, little discussion has been made regarding the potential implications that MEK's presence may have for Albania in the long run, and for religious balances that have already been thrown off by Wahabbi and Salafi presence among moderate Muslim communities in recent years.

#### MEK Activities and Support in Albania

There are a number of opportunities MEK is exploiting in order to restart its political activities against the Iranian

government now that they are residing in Albania. Recent propaganda efforts by the group's leader, Maryam Rajavi, the widow of the founder of MEK, Massoud Rajavi, suggest that she sees herself as a key actor in fostering the opposition in Iran and subsequently bringing down the [Ayatollah] Khomeini's government. (Exit.al, March 14). Much of the group's propaganda material available online is translated in Albanian and seeks to also reach out to a local audience in their host country (Iran-interlink.org).

Moreover, the group has gathered significant support from important U.S. leaders who do not shy away from expressing their support for MEK's potential rise as Iran's future "democratic government" (Exit.al, June 26). This sentiment is frequently expressed on a number of occasions when important figures of the U.S. political landscape have personally visited Albania and spoken at rallies organized by MEK in Tirana (KlanTV, March 21). The most recent gatherings saw figures such as John Bolton (now U.S. National Security Advisor), Rudy Giuliani, one of President Trump's most trusted advisors and personal lawyer, and late U.S. Senator John McCain, among others. The three seemingly demonstrated their support for MEK to be at the center of regime change in Iran (Exit.al, June 26).

The reasons why the Trump administration is supporting the group's political objectives are unclear. It is also unclear the level of support MEK still has among the population in Iran, but it is becoming increasingly obvious that MEK is also making some powerful friends in Tirana as well. Over the years, key leaders from the Albanian government

and civil society organizations have similarly provided their support during rallies and conferences organized by MEK in Paris as well as in Albania, where its new headquarters are located. In May 2015, Albania's former Prime Minister during the war in Kosovo and current Minister of Diaspora, Pandeli Majko attended the National Council of Resistance of Iran rally in Paris with a large delegation of parliament journalists, lawyers representatives, and some civil society representatives, reiterating Albania's support for "Iran's resistance" and promising his personal support for regime change. [3]

**Despite the group's increasing** political support, recent media reports and several incidents **MEK** between members and local communities in Albania expose their continuing secretive activities and ongoing struggles to receive legitimacy as a democratic organization.

In an impassioned speech over a cheering crowd, Majko said "whether you want it or not, you have involved us in your story, in your drama, in your tragedies and we understand you very well...some years ago, an American President was in Berlin and from Berlin, this politician, this great man declared 'Ich bin a Berliner'. And in the name of my friends and in Albania, I've come here to say 'Men mujahed astam'. I have a dream to come soon to Tehran. Invited by you." [4] At the time, Majko's attendance in the Paris rally was not covered by local media.

Despite the group's increasing political support, recent media reports and several incidents between MEK members and local communities in Albania expose their continuing secretive activities and ongoing struggles to receive legitimacy as a democratic organization. Over the years, several media agencies have been interested in documenting the lives of MEK members in Albania and their political

struggles in Iran. Channel 4, a well-known British news agency, recently traveled to Albania to do the same. The film crew was met by hostile private security who were guarding the highly fortified Manëz camp. Camp members physically attacked Channel 4's camera crew (Shqiptaria.com, August 19). This was an unprecedented event that raised several questions over the camp's activities (Lapsi.al, August 19). The event was widely reported by local media, which was also able to obtain a threat assessment on the group by Albania's Intelligence Agency. According to the report initially made available to Channel 4 and then to other Iranian and local media, the group remains "deeply indoctrinated" and some of their activities, including murders of their members, are similar to the ones in Iraq (The Iranian, August 2018).

Testimonies from dissidents who left the group in recent months speak of similar military trainings, indoctrination pressure to follow the group's ideology (Top Channel, February 13). Although in the early years some of their members who relocated to Albania sought opportunities to travel abroad and join family members in the West, some 200 members have fled the group and continue to live in Albania (Top Channel, February 13). There is no clarity of their legal status or the employment opportunities available in a country suffering from high unemployment rates. However, some advocacy initiatives-often seemingly pro-Russian and pro-Iranianare already fostering opposition against the group. Some of this opposition is often portrayed by the MEK leadership as an operation conducted by Iran's security agencies (Lapsi.al, August 19; Media e Lire, April 17; Nejat NGO, September 29) Moreover, integrating the rest of the members still in Manëz into Albania's society does not seem to be in the immediate interest for the MEK.

#### **Implications**

The MEK's presence and activities may have serious repercussions for Albania





and Albanian policy-makers. Leaders in Tirana may not foresee the long-term consequences of expanding their role on foreign policy issues beyond the small Balkan nation's traditional reach. The group remains an existential threat to the Iranian government. Over the years, Tehran has supported significant raids via Hezbollah and other proxy organizations in Iraq to destroy the group and kill key MEK leaders. As a result, Albanian authorities should expect more involvement from Iran in its internal and regional affairs. If no effective responses are undertaken, MEK's presence and Iran's attention towards the Western Balkans may inflame sectarian divides in smaller communities and amplify regional rifts. Sectarian division is a latent phenomenon among Albanian Muslims, but they also remain under the pressure of other forms of Islamist radicalization. This is due to the emergence of Islamic State and Turkey's instrumentalization of political Islam, among others.

Albania continues to struggle with endemic corruption and organized crime and the emergence of religious radicalization as a regional security threat and potential sectarian rifts may add to the list of challenges facing Albania's political landscape. As a result, the country may not be prepared to inherit a long-standing struggle between a major regional Middle Eastern power and a former terrorist organization. Especially since both may utilize Albania's internal vulnerabilities for their own political gains.

### Former MEK Member and Director of Cults and Terror Website:

## It Would be Wrong to Ignore the Mojahedin in Albania



"It would be a mistake for the Albanian authorities to dismiss the MEK as a defunct force simply because many of its members are old or ailing. They may not be a fighting force but they certainly have transferable skills and experience in terrorist training and logistics. These could be very useful to other terrorist organizations. The MEK has people who are experts in money laundry, people trafficking, fraud and corruption."

Source: **DW.COM** 

eutsche Welle: Ms. Khodabandeh you are of the opinion that Albania's agreement to take a further number of Mojahedin is associated with some risk. The international media talks about another 2,000 more Mojahedin going to Albania. What risk do they pose?

Anne Khodabandeh: There are many other NATO countries where the MEK could have gone, but only Albania agreed to accept the refugees. It would have been much better to have distributed the refugees among several countries instead of leaving Albania to take the whole burden. However, the move is very welcome since these people have to be moved somewhere for their own safety. Now they have a better chance of escaping their past and starting new lives as ordinary civilians.

The actual risk to Albania will be if the MEK is not disbanded as a group. Disbanding means that each refugee should be treated as an individual. They must be de-radicalised and then integrated back into normal society as ordinary citizens with homes and jobs and families. The MEK must not be allowed to re-organise as a quasi-military group. Clearly, Albania is not as strong as western European countries in this respect and so the process will be more difficult. But if it is done, then the country can take full credit for doing something not even the USA or the European Union could achieve.

#### DW: In one of your articles, you write that this is the relocation of terrorist group into Europe. Do you really think that a terrorist risk to Europe could come from Albania?

**AK:** It is important to remember that every member of the MEK who is relocated into Albania has been radicalised to the core. They have been undergoing terrorist training for up to thirty years in Iraq. They will not suddenly change just because the MEK name is removed from a list of terrorist groups or if they physically move

to another country. They are still terrorists. Many have been highly trained by Saddam Hussein's former Republican Guards Corps in specialist activities - from bomb making and terrorist strate gies, to intelligence gathering and torture. The MEK is credited with inventing the suicide mission back in the 1970s.

#### DW: What do you think Albania should do?

**AK:** It would be a mistake for the Albanian authorities to dismiss the MEK as a defunct force simply because many of its members are old or ailing. They may not be a fighting force but they certainly have transferable skills and experience in terrorist training and logistics. These could be very useful to other terrorist organizations. The MEK has people who are experts in money laundry, people trafficking, fraud and corruption.

The location of Albania in the far south east of Europe makes it attractive as a gateway country into Europe. Without scrupulous vigilance the MEK camp could become a staging post for other terrorist leaders and commanders as well as acting as a terrorist training base.

DW: After the Mojahedin was removed from the list of terrorist organizations they could be said to be seen as allies of the Americans as they fought against Saddam Hussein. Is this fact not sufficient to exclude the possibility that they may pose a risk?

**AK:** The MEK have never been considered as actual allies by any western government. These governments may have benefitted from the MEK's violent anti-Iran activities and have turned a blind eye to the support given to the group by various interest groups, but the MEK has never had governmental support except from Saddam Hussein. He paid and trained the MEK in terrorism for regime change in Iran. Expert US and EU assessment still regards the MEK as a 'potential' threat to Western interests.

#### DW: It is said that the Mojahedin Khalq helped in the fight against terrorism, why doesn't the government in Iraq want them in their country?

**AK:** The MEK, referred to as Saddam's Private Army, was responsible for the deaths of 25,000 Iraqi citizens, particularly among Kurds in the north and Shia populations in the south. For this reason, the group has many enemies in the country and their safety cannot be guaranteed.

After Saddam's ouster, the MEK declared itself a friend to the US army and was disarmed. Over several years, Iraq's security forces have gathered information which shows that the MEK still poses a threat to peace and stability in the country through its active support and help for insurrection forces linked to both Al Qaida and more recently Daesh.

## DW: In Albania until now, they have lived peacefully. Why could they be a threat to Albania right now?

**AK:** It is known that the MEK leaders Massoud and Maryam Rajavi are planning to establish a safe haven for themselves in Albania along with the majority of the members. They want to recreate the closed society which they have used elsewhere - in Iraq, North America and Europe - that allows them to operate outside normal legal constraints. In Albania they seek to exploit the relatively weak state of the country's governmental, security and social institutions in order to establish an extrajudicial enclave of their own.

#### DW: In Albania the Mojahedin Khalq live as political refugees. As such they are included in the legal framework of the country.

**AK:** It is not possible to be both a political refugee and a member of a terrorist organization. At present, because the MEK has not been disbanded, each person who



arrives in Albania is still a de facto member of the MEK terrorist group, regardless of the status under which they were transferred. Their refugee status is nullified as long as they are living in MEK accommodation and obeying MEK rules. The Albanian authorities must not ignore the fact that these people are victims of cultic abuse and are living in conditions of modern slavery. No ordinary member is allowed to make independent contact with the outside world. The MEK leaders claim to represent the views and wishes of the entire membership but when they arrived in Albania about 200 of them left. This is something which humanitarian organizations, both international and local, need to urgently address. The MEK must not be allowed to close the doors against the outside world and must not prevent the people transferred from Iraq from contacting their families and the outside world.

#### DW: You were once a Mojahedin activist. Why did you leave them?

**AK:** Yes, this happened [recruitment and radicalisation] when I was in university after the Iranian Revolution in 1979. I was young and naiive. They said they were fighting for human rights in Iran, but as I got deeper inside the organization, I saw the atmosphere of fear and secrecy. I realized they were not fighting to liberate Iran from tyranny, as they claim, but only working to save the leaders. So, I left.

## The Watchlist No.1 November 2020

#### My Day With the MEK

## Albanian Journalist Describes Her Visit to the MEK Camp in Tirana



"The People's Mujahedin of Iran- a 'controversial' political-militant organization have ended up living in a compound just miles from Tirana, Albania. One day I was invited to attend a "human rights conference" there. Not knowing much about them and as a curious journalist, I accepted and set off, not having any idea of what to expect."

Source: The Balkanista

ocated around 30 minutes drive from Tirana, the MEK compound is on the outskirts of the village of Manza. Rumour has it that the locals are not overly happy about their presence there, but the fact that the compound provides work for a number of them is enough to keep them at bay.

At the entrance to the camp was a carpark where a number of private guards with automatic weapons stood around chainsmoking with their guns slung over their shoulders. Two large gold-coloured lions flanked the gateway where a couple of MEK members sit, stopping anyone that tries to enter.

As the minibus pulled into the entrance, the private guards in their brown uniforms approached the vehicle with mirrors on the end of long metal poles. They spoke with the driver before using the mirrors to check the underneath of the vehicle for, what I assume, was bombs or similar devices. After getting the all-clear, we passed through the gate and disembarked in a small car park.

Ahead of us was along a road that disappeared over the top of the hillside. Iranian flags lined the route and a large, stone archway sat in the middle of the road with an even bigger flag hanging from it. To the right of the arch was a small tent where a different private security firm had set up scanners, metal detectors, and a station for searching everyone that wished to enter, segregated into male and female stations, our bags were searched, we were patted down and scanned, and also made to pass through a scanner.

The security guard confiscated my lipstick, face powder, cigarettes, and lighter and put them in a plastic bag, advising me I could collect them afterwards. They tried to confiscate my mobile phone as well, but I argued that having a one-month-old daughter at home, I needed to be contactable. A male MEK member was called over and after pleading my case, I was allowed to take my phone inside on the condition I

switched off the internet (I didn't).

It was at this point that I began to feel nervous. The level of security was incredibly high, the searches were more thorough than at an airport, and I was concerned at the attempt to take my phone, as well as the temporary confiscation of something so seemingly harmless as a lipstick.

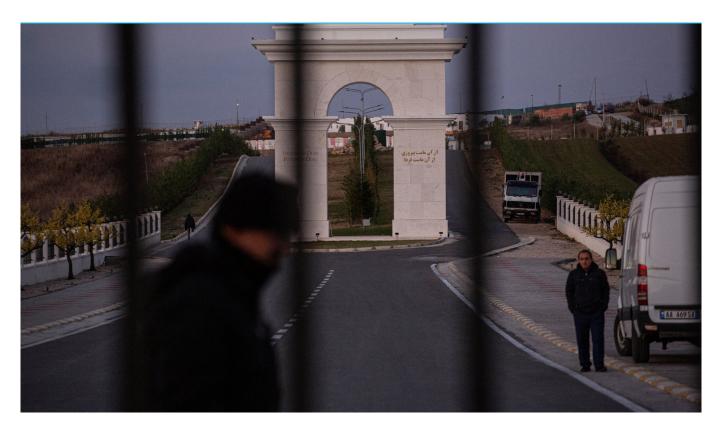
As I looked around, I also noticed the dress code that applied to everyone except the staff of the two separate private security firms.

I was greeted by a number of smiling, incredibly friendly women that shook my hand, kissed my cheeks and thanked me for attending. The majority of them were dressed in navy blue suits with burgundy hijabs, with no makeup and modest shoes. I noticed a small number of women who appeared to be much older than the others and assuming positions of more responsibility, wearing head to toe olive green- a suit with a matching hijab. The men were dressed in suits with shirts and no tie- they all seemed to have moustaches. Not one person was under 50 years old.

From the security checkpoint, we were herded into minibusses dependent on nationality and who invited us, and we started our descent into the "city".

As we passed over the top of the hill, rows and rows of white, single-story cabins appeared below us. Each road we took had its own street name and each row of housing was complete with plants and flowers planted outside and even bicycles propped up, ready for use. The place was immaculate- little box houses on pristine streets and a small artificial river running through the centre. On what appears to be the main boulevard, Iranian flags lined the way, with a large memorial to those MEK members who lost their lives at one end, and what appears to be a sort of city centre at the other.

We pulled off the main boulevard and disembarked outside what looked like a



large aircraft hangar. Guarding several entrances were more private security guards and more men with moustaches. As we file into the building, I had no idea what was waiting for me inside.

The room was vast- similar to an industrial warehouse in size and dimensions. Inside were perhaps 3000 people in seats stretching as far as the eye coul see. To the left of me was a stage, cordoned off and supervised by security guards. This stage was kitted out with an expensive-looking set including large screens with graphics of video footage of the MEK struggle interspersed with images of their leader Maryam Rajavi and the Iranian flag. A podium stood on the stage, next to a flagpole and flag, and in front of the words "FREE IRAN".

Upbeat and patriotic sounding music pumped from the speakers and filled the room, drowning out the sound of delegates as they make their way to their seats. In the centre of the room were two columns of seating, male MEK members on one side, female MEK members on the other, completely segregated and each in their strict dress code, including hijabs for women. Again, no one was under the age of 50.

On the far-right hand and left-hand sides of these seating zones, sat the international delegates, segregated by nationality. Everyone was handed a headset and told to tune in to a particular frequency that would pick up the translations coming live from a line of translation booths on the right-hand side of the room.

At the front of the room, the VIPs were sat in rows with tables in front of them, displaying the name and country of each delegate. I noticed the US, UK, France, Germany, and Saudi Arabia were all represented by between one and five individuals. They included politicians, ex-politicians and exsecurity and military personnel. I was told that there were representatives from 47 countries present.

Large booms swung over head, each with a camera attached to it filming the crowd from a variety of angles. This was an expensive set up, reminiscent of a large-scale TV studio.

The number of people in the room was quite staggering and to see the rows of people seated at the far end, I had to squint. Asides from the thousands that were seated, there were perhaps a hundred uniformed and

hijabi wearing women scuttling around, seating people and handing out headsets. They were under the direction of a few men in suits and were amongst over 100 security guards.

As I waited to be seated, the chanting started and thousands of Iranian flags started being waved enthusiastically as the crowd got to their feet. The chanting and flag waving occured for several minutes, before they sat back down again- a pattern that repeated countless times throughout the event.

On my own at this point, I enquired as to where I should sit. Confusion ensues as I explain that I am English yet living in Albania and I was told to wait whilst they discussed what to do with me.

I was then approached by an older male MEK member holding a walkie-talkie who asked me who I was and what I was doing. I explained again and made the mistake of saying I am a journalist whilst flashing my press card. At this point, he became angry and said, "who the hell told you to be here?"

I was then approached by an older male MEK member holding a walkie-talkie who asked me who I was and what I was doing. I explained again and made the mistake of saying I am a journalist whilst flashing my press card.

At this point, he became angry and said, "who the hell told you to be here?" I replied that I had been invited and that some of the ladies had told me to wait here whilst they decided where to seat me. He replied angrily "these ladies know nothing, I am in charge here".

At this point, I became unhappy at being shouted at and I asked him to lower his voice and not to treat a guest in this manner. He walked off and eventually I was seated by a woman in a hijab, in the section for Albanians.

It was then, as I looked around, I noticed that there were no other journalists present as I could not see any TV crews, no other people with press cards, no journalists I recognised, and I realised I hadn't seen any media vans or cars in the car park. There was only the expensive video cameras and a couple of photographers who I believed were MEK members.

#### Then the show began

MEK leader, Maryam Rajavi took to the stage amidst triumphant music, glitter cannons spitting out gold confetti into the audience, and the euphoric chants, flag-waving, and fist-pumping in perfect synchronicity of the uniformed, segregated, Iranian audience members.

Dressed in turquoise silk with a matching hijab, Rajavi smiled as she spoke, pausing only to enjoy the chanting and adoration from her followers. She captivated the crowd as she spoke of women's rights, gender equality, democracy, human rights, and an end to the mullahs and ayatollah. To see the way that the crowd reacted to her was really something fascinating- they hung on every world, and jumped to their feet many times to chant and wave their flags ecstatically.

Following Rajavi's rousing speech, other speakers took to the floor. They included Trump's lawyer and ex- Mayor of New York, Rudy Giuliani (who has attended 11 such conferences, reportedly for a hefty fee), former Democratic senator Joe Lieberman, Columbian presidential candidate Ingrid Betancourt, former US Marine Corps Commander General James Conway, Lincoln Bloomfield, and British MP Matthew Offord.

They referred to "the regime of terror", the "murderers in Tehran", and called for the immediate overthrow of the current Iranian government. MEK were called "freedom fighters" and hailed as the only solution to the current situation in Iran.

Guiliani also said that "European



governments must stop supporting regimes that fund terrorism" calling for and end to any trade with Iran, stating that it funds "mass murderers".

He also commented on the way that the compound had sprung up in just two years adding "if we tried to do this in New York, it would take 15 years and launch 14 corruption investigations."

Addressing the allegations that MEK is a cult, he stated "maybe [these people] they forgot about honour and decency, human rights. This is a decent organisaton. A group we can support."

Each speech was broken up by periods of coordinated chanting and flag-waving with each outburst as frenetic and enthusiastic as the one before.

I sat there for around two or three hours, not really sure what was going on or what the purpose of the event was. Feeling a little on edge, I got up from my seat and made my way to the exit. As I walked towards where I had disembarked the minibus, the woman who invited me called my name and came running over to me and presented me with

a box of sweets and fruit. She asked me who I worked for and what I wrote (which was odd because I had never told her) and invited me to come back to the compound another time to discuss their work more.

I said my goodbyes and headed back to the entrance, passed the armed guards and moustachioed MEK members, and went back to Tirana.

Over the next few days, my contact and I exchanged a few messages where I said I would be interested in "one day" returning to find out more. She then proceeded to call me around 15 times, even when I told her I was not available (I didn't answer) and even from different phone numbers. I then politely but firmly declined any invitations and that was the last I heard from my friend at MEK.

## The Watchlist No.1 November 2020

#### **Victims of November**

### Some Cases of Assassination in Iran in the Month of November

Source: Habilian

Between 1979 and 2009, 848 Iranian citizens have been assassinated by terrorist groups in the month of November.





**Father and Son** 

Victims: Karim Bineh (73 years old) & Ali Bineh

(23 years old)

Occupation: Self-employed

Date of Assassination: November 08, 1984

Location of Assassination: Sardasht,

West Azerbaijan Province **Perpetrator:** Komola





**Two Brothers** 

Victims: Mashaallah Ahmadi Sakha (51 years old) & Mohammed Hossain Ahmadi Sakha (26 years old)

Occupation: Haberdasher

Date of Assassination: November 12, 1986

Location of Assassination: Tehran, Tehran

Province

Perpetrator: MEK



#### **Father and Two Sons**

Victims: Shahgoldi Almasi Sangdeh (50 years old) & Shafaat Almasi Sangdeh (15 years old) & Shirali Almasi Sangdeh (17 years old)

**Occupation:** Farmer

Date of Assassination: November 22, 1983

Location of Assassination: Rezvanshahr, Gilan

Province

Perpetrator: MEK





Victims: Khezrollah Akbarzadeh (16 years old) &

Fathollah Akbarzadeh (24 years old)

Occupation:Worker; Revolutionary Guard Date of Assassination: November 6, 1982

Location of Assassination: Amol, Mazandaran

**Perpetrator: MEK** 





#### **Two Brothers**

Victims: Mohammad Vojdani (31 years old) &

Hamzeh Vojdani (25 years old) **Occupation:** Volunteer Force

Date of Assassination: November 6, 1983

Location of Assassination: Miandoab, West

Azerbaijan Province

**Perpetrator:** Anti-revolutionary Groups

## Claiming Responsibility for Assassination a Firefighter

The Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization has claimed responsibility for assassination a firefighter in Rasht during 1982.

The MEK terrorist group has made the confession in No. 139 of the Mojahed Magazine, the group's main press organ during early years of the 80s.

Based on this confession, on November 26, 1982, during the so-called Armed Phase of Resistance, an operational team of the MEK after a reconnaissance mission assassinated a firefighter named Gholamreza Akbari in Rasht. The victim was member of Rasht Firefighting's Islamic Association.





Most people in Albania know little about the MEK, nor the list of other names the group has used to identify itself as a resistance group against Iranian government, not to mention their activities following the Iranian revolution and their exile to Iraq, where Saddam Hussein offered his support in exchange for their capacities to threaten the Iranian government.

